

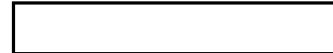
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5 May 1956

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Copy No. 103

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

DOCUMENT NO. **36**
NO CHANGE IN CLASS.
1. DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: **2009**
AUTH. HP TO: **12-76-79**
DATE REVIEWER: 

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OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION

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1. STALIN'S TERRORIST LAWS ABOLISHED

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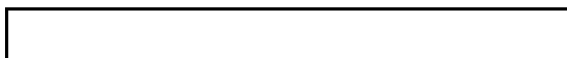


The Soviet Union has revoked two special laws which provided a legal and procedural basis for the great purges of the 30's, thereby emphasizing that the regime is continuing its campaign to wipe off the books reminders of Stalin's use of police terror as an instrument of control. These laws, one dated 1934 and the other 1937, provided for "exceptional procedure in investigation and court trial" of persons accused of terrorism against the government and destruction of state property. The decree revoking these laws said that in the future, investigation of such crimes must be guided by normal judicial standards established by law.

The 1934 law was passed on 5 December shortly after the assassination of politburo member Sergei Kirov in Leningrad. It provided for secret trial, no appeal, and immediate execution of the sentence. It was under this law that Marshal Tukhachevsky, whose reputation was recently rehabilitated by Khrushchev, was tried and executed in 1937. It was last invoked in 1953 as the basis for trial and execution of Beria.



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3. DE GAULLE'S VIEWS ON FRANCE AND ATLANTIC SOLIDARITY

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General Charles de Gaulle has told an American official the belief is growing in France that the United States is becoming more and more inclined to seek bilateral solutions

with the USSR on all major problems. He cited this view as the principal reason for French pessimism about European or Atlantic solidarity.

De Gaulle believes the general situation in France has deteriorated to a point where it is impossible for any government to follow a coherent policy about anything. He denied, however, that he had any "personal intention" of trying to remedy the situation.

Comment

Premier Mollet and Foreign Minister Pineau's frequent criticism of Western policy has been motivated largely by the feeling that France's views have not been given full consideration.

De Gaulle's renewed political interest may encourage independent action by French leaders who suspect that Germany and Britain may also be increasingly inclined to seek bilateral solutions with the USSR.

Interest in a strong executive is growing among parliamentary leaders of various groups, and de Gaulle will be increasingly mentioned as a likely candidate. Despite his own disclaimer of ambition, De Gaulle is now keeping in closer touch with current affairs by spending two days a week in Paris.



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5. PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER INVITED TO VISIT USSR

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Pakistan's Prime Minister Chaudhri Mohammad Ali admitted to the American ambassador on 2 May that Mikoyan had asked him to visit the USSR when the Soviet first deputy premier visited Karachi in March.

Mohammad Ali said that he had told Mikoyan that he would "think it over" and had mentioned the invitation to no one except Pakistan's president and the foreign minister.

Comment

Pakistan will probably not act on the invitation until the USSR reveals its stand on the Kashmir issue in the United Nations next month and until the present internal challenge to Mohammad Ali's continuance as prime minister is resolved.

Should a visit take place, Soviet-Pakistani economic relations would probably be the main topic of discussion. Moscow will also probably attempt to undermine Pakistan's role in the Baghdad pact and SEATO.

Mohammad Ali is scheduled to depart for Peiping on 14 May for a two-week visit.

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
(Information as of 1700, 4 May)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Syria, following the last-minute discussions with Secretary General Hammarskjold, had initialed a statement agreeing to an unconditional cease-fire, but with an addendum to the effect that Syria would observe its obligations under the UN charter including Article 25 (this refers to the carrying out of Security Council decisions) and hoped that Israel would do the same. Prime Minister Ghazzi told Moose that the addendum was not a condition to the cease-fire agreement, but said that Syria had told Hammarskjold it would consider Israeli resumption of work on the Banat Yacov canal a violation of the agreement. [REDACTED] Hammarskjold said he had no assurances from Israel in regard to abiding by the Security Council decision. The secretary general felt, however, that this was implicit in UN membership, that Israel attached importance to his views, and he was therefore not worried. [REDACTED]

An Israeli military spokesman reported that an Israeli patrol last night clashed with Jordanian infiltrators in the Gilboa region, about 45 miles north of Jerusalem. The spokesman also said that Egyptians stole Israeli crops at Nahal Oz near the Gaza strip. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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